

POLICE PAY PLEA UP TO ESTIMATE BOARD TO-DAY

Opportunity Offered to End
Starvation Wages of Cops
and Firemen.

WAY OPEN TO INCREASE

Citizens Willing to Stand Tax
if Needed to Raise Salaries
by July 1.

An opportunity of proving the good faith of their campaign promises of fair dealing with city employees and at the same time correcting a condition of real danger to the city is offered the members of the Board of Estimate to-day.

An application for more pay for the patrolmen and firemen—a 10 per cent. increase beginning July 1—is before the board. It is in the form of a request that the Aldermen be asked to issue special revenue bonds for this purpose. The request is voiced by 9,336 patrolmen and 3,717 firemen. It is supported by their Commissioners and other officers without exception, and by many citizen taxpayers who are convinced that in this case the spending of money represents no burthen, but real economy.

To raise the pay of these men would require about \$200,000 for the next six months, after which time the increase could be taken care of by the regular city budget appropriations for 1919. In any one year the issue of special revenue bonds is restricted to \$2,000,000. About half of this amount has been issued in the first half of this year. Of the other half almost \$500,000 is said to be needed to meet deficits in appropriations for the Dock Department and Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, whose expenses have proved to be heavier than was calculated by the Mitchell Board of Estimate last fall. So on the face of it, only \$500,000 is left for other emergencies that may arise, of which the police and fire situation is one. This is not enough to cover a 10 per cent. raise for the private of the city's two blue armies.

Way Now Open.

That, however, does not close the argument. The Board of Estimate can find, as other boards of Estimate have found, a way to do the necessary thing. Transferring of money from one account to another, from one purpose to another, has been found easy in the past if the will was there. There is no doubt that the present city administration wants to raise not only the police and firemen, but the street cleaners and thousands of other low paid city employees, who are being engulfed by the rising tide of high prices. But it says the city hasn't the money. The Government didn't say that when it raised the railroad employees by \$200,000,000, private corporations have not said that when competitive demands of labor yielded increase after increase. They paid the price and passed it along to the consumer. In the case of the Government the consumer pays the cost in taxation. In the case of the private corporation the consumer pays it in the increased price of the product. The city government also sells a product—police and fire protection. If in the end a 10 per cent. raise for the patrolmen and firemen means a point or two in the tax rate, assuming that it cannot be offset by economies elsewhere—well, some of the largest taxpayers of New York have told THE SUN they could stand it in such a cause as this.

In studying the problem the Estimate Board has undoubtedly inquired whether or not salary accruals—money appropriated for salaries but not spent—exist in a sufficient amount to be diverted to the patrolmen and firemen and meet their needs for the rest of the year. In this respect the Police Department itself has effected a large saving which will be still larger in the next six months. Commissioner Enright said yesterday that he had already saved \$115,000 out of his appropriation for the uniformed force in the first half of the year.

Savings in Salaries.

"It is believed," he said yesterday, "that by the end of the year the savings on salaries alone will amount to between \$400,000 and \$500,000, and savings from other sources will run the amount up to at least three-quarters of a million dollars. The savings in the early part of the year will not amount to as much as they do in the latter part."

And in a speech before the Queens Chamber of Commerce in Long Island City yesterday afternoon the Commissioner said:

"We have 700 less men in the department now than there were a year ago. These men have been taken to go to war. Before the end of this year we will have 1,000 less, and when the draft quotas are filled up we will have 3,000 less men. Up to the present time we have been able to do all that has been

required of us by abolishing needless details and posts where men could be spared. But we have reached the limit in that direction. From now on to meet the requirements we will have to have additional men."

"Because of the demand of Mayor Hylan that all departments show an economical administration, we have cut out many things, and I will ask of the city \$1,000,000 less to run the department than was asked last year."

"At the same time the Commissioner stirred the Queens business men with his exposition of the pay question. 'The police are required to work regularly an average of eleven hours a day 365 days in the year,' he said. 'When called upon for parades and celebrations they serve beyond their regular tour of duty, so that to-day the average working time of policemen throughout the city is fifteen hours a day. The first year, second year and third year men get \$2.92 a day, and when he has been advanced to the first and highest patrolman's grade he gets \$4 a day. 'Can any of you men engaged in industrial work go out to-day and secure men who will be as competent as the policemen are, who give as many hours of their work and who are of as high class as the policemen, for any such pay as that?'

Good Use for Money.

By the end of the year the Commissioner expects, as stated above, to save at least \$750,000 of the money appropriated for his department for this year. For next year he expects to ask for \$1,000,000 less than was appropriated for this year. Naturally the Hylan administration would like to turn every possible cent of this saving into the general fund, with the object of lowering the tax rate next year, or at least preventing it from rising. But how about using every possible cent of it in meeting the just claim of the patrolmen for a fair wage? The money is being saved in their department. As Mr. Enright has shown, their work has been longer and more exacting by the absence of men whose jobs they are doubling on. Why not, instead of using the money saved for other city purposes, use it on the patrolmen? Commissioner Enright says he certainly would not object.

As the Fire Commissioner is also saving a considerable sum because firemen who go to war are not being replaced, and the city pays them in their absence, not their full salary but the difference between their city and army salary, he also will have something in the way of accruals to show. The amount needed

to give the firemen a 10 per cent. increase for the rest of the year is about \$250,000; to give the patrolmen a 10 per cent. increase it is about \$400,000. No other city employees are asking for a midyear raise; no other city employees are burdened by the expense of having to buy expensive uniforms and equipment out of their wages; no other city employees work anything like the hours of the firemen and policemen; no other city employees are kept away from their homes for many days and nights at a stretch; no others run such risks.

Like Police Commissioner Enright, Fire Commissioner Drennan says the mid-year increase is needed.

Firemen in Arrears.

"Living conditions have got beyond the firemen," Mr. Drennan told THE SUN, "and the expense they are put to for uniforms and equipment is constantly increasing. They are now working longer hours than formerly and have less time with their families. As the draft has been getting the younger men and every man on the eligible list is liable to be drafted, firemen have had to lose part of their time off, so as to cover the work of those who have gone. Instead of 180 hours each month they now get 108. Except for four hours each day for meals they have to stay in the station house the rest of the time, when they are not running to fires. Under these circumstances, the necessity of which no one regrets more than I do, a salary increase is more than ever needed to make up, in part, for their deprivations, make the men feel that their sacrifice is appreciated and enable them to support their families. Moreover as the age limit for men entering the service has been raised from 21 to 25 years better pay is needed to attract the older men into service. At present a good many men are taking advantage of the pension law to retire on half pay and earn a good salary in some other work instead of staying in the Department on full pay."

Illiam C. Bloomfield of Bloomfield Bros., the Fifty-ninth street merchants, has special knowledge of police conditions, and is, therefore, a warm advocate of more pay for the patrolmen. He is the donor of the Bloomfield trophy—a revolver awarded to the man passing the highest examination in every graduating class of the Police Department school for recruits. It is given in memory of his father, the late Lyman G. Bloomfield. "I wish all the public could watch the

recruits, as I have done frequently," Mr. Bloomfield said yesterday, "and see what really exceptional qualifications we demand of our policemen. They must be not only athletes, every one of them, but must have rare judgment and a knowledge of the law. The ordinary industrial employee, when an emergency arises, always has some one at his elbow to tell him what to do. But the policeman is always being called upon for instant decision without guidance save his own brain. It is amazing to find that for the first three years the patrolman, high class men in responsible positions, get only \$1,050 a year, and that the first year man has to spend \$300 for uniforms and equipment. Why, that reduces the first year salary to \$750, or less than \$15 a week. Every private employer knows that this is absurd. In his second and third year the patrolman, if he is lucky in being able to make his uniforms, gets a net salary of about \$900 a year, or about \$17.25 a week. That's not a fair wage. What kind of men could a private employer get for such a sum? The whole city ought to get behind this movement for a salary increase, beginning right away."

ALLIES NEED ONLY ROADS.

Canadian Major Says Transportation Facilities Will Turn Tide.

Major E. C. Goldie of the Canadian Engineers, who has been on the battle fronts of France since the beginning of the war, arrived at an American port yesterday, on his way to Toronto, convinced that the tide would be turned in favor of the Allies after the perfection of transportation facilities in France. The Major said the balance of man power, thanks to the coming of the Americans, was now with the Allies, and it remained only for American engineering talent to complete the necessary roads to enable the Allies to begin the offensive. This soon would be accomplished.

Canadians and Americans, the Major said, get along like brothers, and were glad to be able to fight alongside each other. The Canadian Engineers expressed themselves weary of the war, which they had been led to believe would end with the present interrupted drive.

More Civil War Pensions Proposed
WASHINGTON, June 20.—Creation of a civil war volunteer officers' retired list, under which some seven thousand men would go on the army's retired payroll, is proposed in a bill named by the Senate to-day and sent to the House.

BILL OPPOSES RAISE IN SUBSCRIPTIONS

Representative Randall Urges
Uniform Rates for Papers
and Magazines.

WASHINGTON, June 20.—A bill to prohibit newspapers and magazines from raising their subscription prices to meet the increased postage rates to distant points and stipulating that such subscriptions shall be "uniform" throughout the United States was offered in the House to-day by Representative Randall (Cal.). Mr. Randall's bill would bar from the second class mail privilege any publication with a higher subscription price on the Pacific coast than on the Atlantic. He would require each publication to file with the Postmaster-General a statement covering its subscription prices.

Defending his proposal the California member said: "The same postal law applicable to newspapers and magazines does not apply some rates to other than the advertising section. The rate after July 1 will be 1½ cents per pound to all parts of the United States on the news and literature section of every publication, and therefore the publisher has no moral right now and will have no legal right when this bill is passed to charge a higher subscription rate in California than in Boston or any other place of publication. The increase in postal rates on the advertising section is a charge to be paid by the advertiser, not the subscriber."

Publishers were again urged by the Federal Trade Commission to reduce consumption of news print paper in a statement to-day showing there was no great saving in May, following a previous appeal. There was a slight decrease in the percentage of returns, free copies, "overs" and "arrears" of all publications using news print, but a considerable increase in the percentage of returned copies of semi-monthly and monthly periodicals. Several important daily newspapers showed excessive returns, two in New

York city more than 25 per cent. One Philadelphia paper showed free copies amounting to 7.5 per cent. and returns of 6.8 per cent. One large monthly using news print showed deliveries to subscribers in arrears of almost 55 per cent. Some of the monthly magazines continue to show returns, one reporting 41 per cent. Several weeklies showed similar percentages of waste.

There was some improvement in conditions in May, but the consumption still was so heavy that there was very little gain in news print stock, and the consumption of periodical paper by magazine and periodical publishers exceeded domestic production. A total of 24,813,769 copies was printed daily by 653 newspapers reporting in May. The weekly circulation reported was 7,755,101 copies and monthly 7,913,861.

Boy and Diamond Vanish

The police were asked yesterday to look for Matthew Howard, 11 years of age, who disappeared last Monday, after leaving his home at 2311 Grand avenue, The Bronx, for a bicycle ride. The lad wore a four carat diamond ring given to his father, a chief petty officer in the navy, for having saved an enthusiastic British subject who fell aboard from an English pier when waving a welcome to the ship on which Howard was serving.

DRAFT DODGER WILL KEEP STEP 20 YEARS

Sentence Follows Attempt to
Fake Foot Injury.

Special Dispatch to THE SUN.
CAMP Upton, June 20.—Private Michael Payer will have exactly twenty years in which to contemplate the accuracy of the ancient and honorable admonition of subway guards on whose trains he used to ride to "Watch your step!"

Limping, groaning, complaining, pleading, Michael reached camp recently with an explanation that a protruding bone in one of his feet made him unfit for service with the 153d Depot Brigade, into which he was drafted. Michael also discovered he had locomotor ataxia.

Two photographs of Michael, taken at Hot Springs, Ark., he said, somehow came into possession of the camp officers whose supply of suspicion far outweighed their accumulation of credulity. They looked the photographs over carefully and found that in one of them the young draftsman was standing with his weight thrown on his left foot. That's where Michael failed to remember his subway education, for in the other photo-

graph all the weight of Michael's body rested snugly on the right foot. Michael declined to submit to a test in the base hospital in connection with the surgeon's attempts to settle the question of whether he was afflicted with locomotor ataxia. An army surgeon testified an X-ray photograph he supplied of the supposedly injured foot was a fraud and that the apparently protruding bone in the alleged photograph was a "foreign body outside of the skin and attached liberally to the foot."

So Major Gen. Ball approved to-day the twenty year sentence imposed on Michael, and he was sent to Fort Jay on Governors Island. "The record reveals a series of unscrupulous efforts made by and in behalf of the accused," Gen. Ball said. Payer lived at 1723 East Thirtieth street, Brooklyn.

Papotholopes New Nicholas.

It is such a very difficult name for one to pronounce over the telephone when one is in a hurry to get one's physician—especially if one chances to stutter—that Dr. Nicholas P. Papotholopes of 34 East Thirty-eighth street went before Justice Pendleton in the Supreme Court yesterday and asked to call himself Dr. Papotholopes P. Nicholas in the future. The court said he could. The doctor explained that he was born of Greek parents in Turkey



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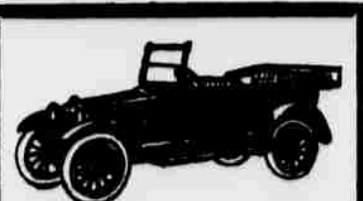
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